

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user, the mouth having an exterior portion terminating in upper and lower lips, a posterior portion, and upper and lower gums therebetween, each gum having teeth projecting therefrom, said apparatus comprising:

an outer shield including an inlet port;

an elongate shaft having a longitudinal axis and a first end [defining] terminating in a generally concave tongue receiving surface disposed generally perpendicularly to said shaft axis, and a second end disposed within said outer shield inlet port;

said shaft having an inner plate disposed between said outer shield and said concave tongue receiving surface, said inner plate sized for insertion in the mouth between the teeth and the lips; and

said shaft including at least one outlet disposed proximal said concave tongue receiving surface.

2. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said inlet port is defined by a generally cylindrical wall having a peripheral edge adapted for threaded engagement with a medicine-containing cap.

3. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said shaft first tubular end is adapted for fluid communication with a tubular hose for supplying medial gas to the user.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user, the mouth having an exterior portion terminating in upper and lower lips, a posterior portion, and upper and lower gums therebetween, each gum having teeth projecting therefrom, said apparatus comprising:

an outer shield, said outer shield including an inlet port defined by a generally cylindrical projecting wall and a floor;

an elongate shaft formed about a longitudinal axis, said shaft having a first end spaced from said outer shield and a second end disposed within said inlet port cylindrical wall;

a generally concave tongue receiving surface, having upper and lower lobes, connected to said shaft first end and disposed generally perpendicular to said shaft longitudinal axis with said upper lobe disposed above said shaft and said lower lobe disposed below said shaft;

said shaft having an inner plate disposed between said outer shield and said concave tongue receiving surface, said inner plate sized for insertion in the mouth between the teeth and the lips;

said shaft including at least one outlet disposed proximal said concave tongue receiving surface.

5. (original) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user according to claim 4, wherein said apparatus is fabricated from a medical grade polymer.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user according to claim 5, wherein said polymer changes color as the temperature thereof changes to indicate whether the user's temperature is normal or elevated.

7. (original) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user according to claim 5, wherein said polymer is flavored.

8. (original) An apparatus for placement within the mouth of a user according to claim 4, wherein said at least one outlet disposed proximal said concave tongue receiving surface comprises a chamber adapted for receiving a dosage of medication in either solid or liquid form for dispersion below the user's tongue.